industries, especially the small and medium enterprises, provision has been made in the budget 2005-06 for formulation of a Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme which would, mainly benefit the small scale industries.

(b) The challenges to this sector in the wake of globalisation and liberalization has been mainly in the area of marketing of products. This sector now has to face increasing competition in both domestic and international markets. These challenges have also opened up opportunities for this sector to tap larger markets in the country and abroad.

(c) The increase in the plan outlay for this Ministry as well as for the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries is considered adequate, in keeping with the role of this sector in the national economy.

(d) The Central Government recognizes the crucial role played by this sector in contributing substantially to the national economy and in generating employment opportunities and, therefore, lays corresponding emphasis on the promotion and development of this sector through a number of schemes and programmes, even though the primary responsibility for promotion and development of SSI lies with the State Governments.

SSIs in Andhra Pradesh

261. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SSIs set up in Andhra Pradesh with the help of the Ministry in last two years; and

(b) the efforts taken by Ministry to improve the infrastructure for the development of SSIs?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Small Scale Industries (SSIs) are set up by private entrepreneurs themselves. The Central Government does not provide any assistance for this purpose. However, as reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the number of small scale industries registered in the last two (2003-04 and 2004-05) in that State is 3,205.

(b) In order to improve the infrastructure for the development of SSIs in rural / backward areas of Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government has so

far sanctioned the following six Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) centres under the IID scheme:

(1) Udumulapur, near Nandyal, Kurnool District

(2) Tada, Nellore District

(3) Keelapattu (V), Nagari, Chittoor District

(4) Madikonda, Warangal District

(5) Gajularamaram, Rangareddy District

(6) Surampally, Vijayawada, Krishna District

Central Government grant of Rs. 3.67 crore has so far been released to these centres.

SSIs in Uttaranchal

†262. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of extremely small and small scale industries registered and functioning in the Uttaranchal State and the number of people employed therein;

(b) whether Ministry is giving assistance to the State Government for marketing of products including handicrafts manufactured in these industries;

(c) whether there is a proposal to impart training to the small entrepreneurs at district level to improve the artistry of the items manufactured in the above industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) As reported by the Government of Uttaranchal, the number of extremely small (tiny) and small scale industries registered and functioning as on 31.9.2005 is 41,701,67,352 persons are reported to be employed by these industries.

(b) Under a number of schemes/programmes implemented by the Central

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.